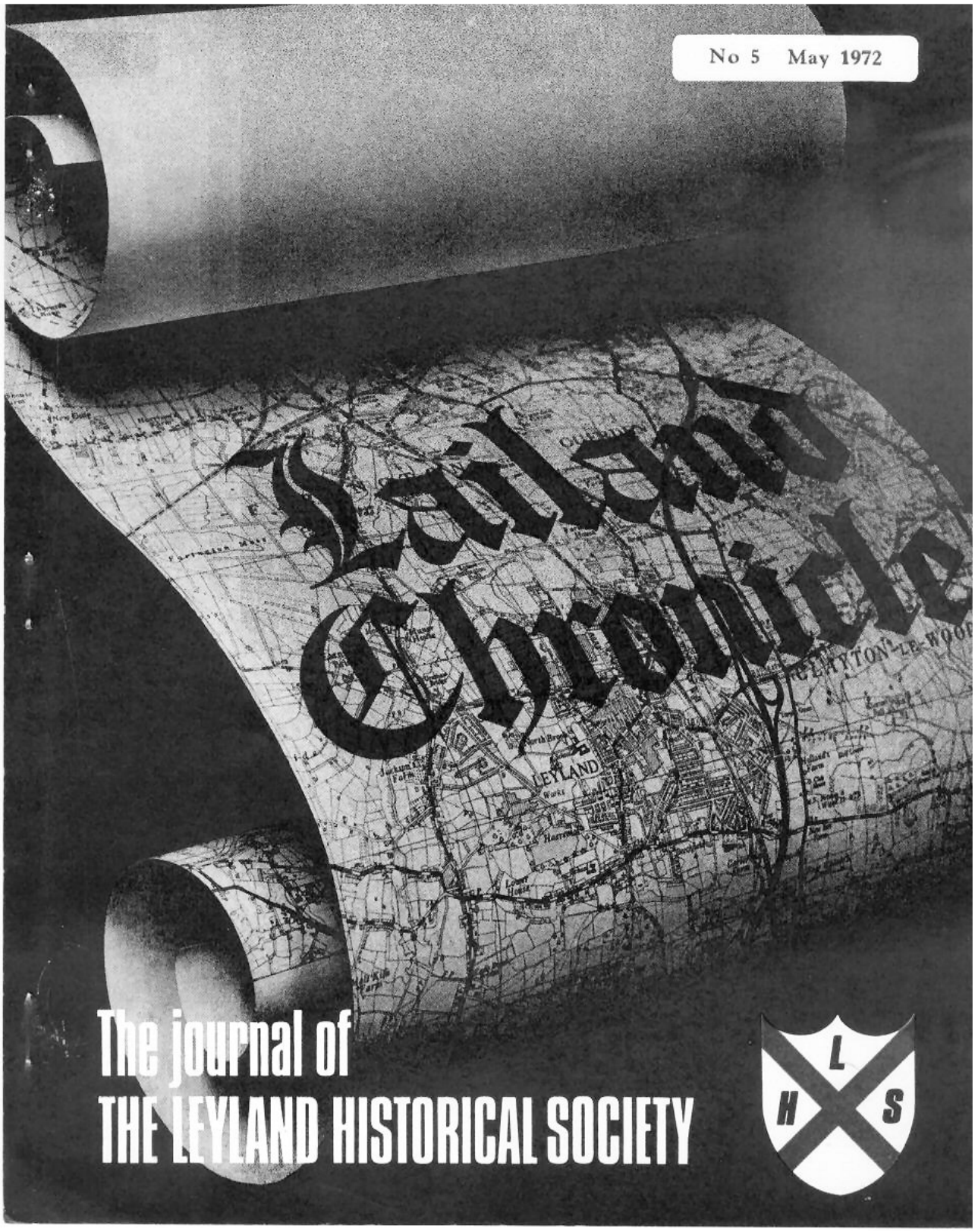
No 5 May 1972
Leyland Chronicle
The journal of
THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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THE LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(Founded 1968)

PRESIDENT

Mr. J.N. Bannister.

CHAIRMAN

Mr. F. Cumpstey.

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr. E. Mason,
71, Crawford Avenue,
Leyland.

Tel. Leyland 21825

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (September to June inclusive) at

THE METHODIST SCHOOL, CANBERRA RD.
LEYLAND.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Vice Presidents	£1.25	Per Annum.
Adult Members	£0.75	Per Annum.
Students	£0.25p	Per Annum.
Casual Visitors and School Members ..	£0.15p	Per Meeting.

Contents :-

SECRETARYS NOTES.

Dear Members,

May I quote from a letter recently issued by our Society.

" The Old Grammar School, Church Road, Leyland.

At a recent meeting of our committee it was decided that the restoration and preservation of the Old Grammar School would be a good thing for the community and the future greater Leyland. It was felt that the Old Grammar School marks a point in the history of education in Leyland and to some people this merits its preservation.

However, the Historical Society would not have the facilities or resources to handle such a project alone and it is considered that it would have to be handled by an "ad hoc" organisation covering a wide cross-section of the community.

To test public opinion on this matter we are inviting prominent citizens and societies who may, we feel, share our views, to indicate their interest (or otherwise) in attending a preliminary meeting to discuss the feasibility of the project, ways and means of promoting it and the subsequent use of the building. "

We are now awaiting replies from the hundred or so people or societies circulated.

We apologise if we have overlooked any person or society who may have indicated their interest.

Mr. Sherdleys talk on Hadrians Wall has sparked off a desire in some members to make a visit there; and if we could obtain Mr. Sherdleys services as guide it would be a really successful trip.

Think it over - August or September would be a suitable time.

The death of Mr. Jack Rawlinson has saddened all who knew him; his lifelong interest in history and archeology benifited all who heard him lecture.

As you know he was to address us at our June meeting on 'Jacobites in Lancashire.'

The replacement lecturer will be announced at our May meeting.

We hope to exhibit some old photographs and may be a few objects connected with Leylands past at Leyland Festival time.

If you have anything which you think relevant and are willing to loan it we should be grateful.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Edgar Mason (Hon Sec.)

NEWS AND COMMENT

We are pleased to report that the programme committee have the future season of meetings planned to provide you with most varied types of speakers, and look forward to your continued support.

Some fifty members of our Society recently spent a most enjoyable evening at Alston Hall, Longridge, were dinner was provided followed by a most enlightening lecture and slide show, given by Mrs. Lightfoot, B.A., on the subject "Discovering a City" York. Our thanks go out to the members of the Social and Programme Committees who organised this event and also to the members and their friends who by their attendance ensured this event such a success.

On Thursday 20th April several members visited The Air Traffic Control Centre at Barton Hall, Near Preston.

FUTURE EVENTS.

On Sunday 7th May the Society has arranged a visit to Stoneyhurst College, Nr. Whalley - if you have not already booked for this outing please contact our Social Secretaries who will advise you.

We have also now fixed a new date for an evening visit to the Lewis Textile Museum at Blackburn on Wednesday 24th May.

Several further outings are being arranged for the next few months and it is hoped to include visits to The University of Lancaster and The National Lake District Park Centre at Windermere.

For full information on the events please contact our Social Secretaries :-

Mrs. Deacon	or	Mrs. Barnes
Tel. Leyland 21369		Tel. Leyland 21033

ANNUAL DINNER

Looking further ahead to 1973 the Societies Annual Dinner has been booked for Wednesday 21st February, at The Pines Hotel, Clayton Green.

EDITORIAL

We are very pleased that our many members and their friends, have commented favourably on our new cover which appeared with our January issue, and feel sure thatit will add prestige to our publication as its circulation increases.

The next issue will appear in October so you have plenty of time to sort out your articles for including in it.

Please send your letters and articles for publication to

The Editor (L.H.S.)
7, Sandy Lane,
Leyland. PR5 1EB.

MEMBERSHIP

Attendances at our meeting this season have been most satisfactory but of course we always welcome more new faces, so do encourage your friends to join us in time for next season.

Our Secretary Mr. Mason will be very pleased to give you details so just come along to any meeting.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY.

The following books are freely available to Members of this Society - on request to our Librarian.

TITLE		AUTHOR
A Survey of English Economic History 55 B.C. to 1939	-	M.W. Thomas.
Portrait of Lancashire.	-	Jessica Lofthouse.
The Official Charter Brochure of Maidstone 1549 - 1949	-	Raymond Hewett.
William Yates Map of Lancashire 1786.	-	J.B. Hartley.
The Old Worsted Mill at Dolphinholme.	-	Mr. P.P. Hall. J.P.
Fylde Folk/Moss or Sand.	-	Kathleen Eyre.
A Star Chamber Case A. Shetton v Blundell 1624 - 1631.	-	Frank Tyrer. M.A., B.Sc.
The City of London Coronation Year Book 1953.	-	Alexander Publications.
Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society Vols. 119, 120, 121, 122.	-	
The Age of Elegance 1812-1822	-	Arthur Bryant.
The Minute Book of Leyland Naturalists Society 1909.		
The Minute Book of Leyland and District Floral and Horticultural Society 1909.		
The Records of a Lancashire Family (From Xll to XX Century)	-	R. Cunliffe Shaw.
The Vikings and their Origins	-	David Wilson.
Concise History of the British Empire.	-	Gerald R. Graham.
Roman Art and Architecture	-	Mortimer Wheeler.
The Connoisseur's Handbook of Antique Collecting.	-	(Smith and Sons)

TITLE		AUTHOR
English Antiques.	-	Ward Lock.
Gods Graves and Scholars (The Story of Archeology)	-	C.W. Ceram.
Happy Wanderer. (Round about Clitheroe)	-	Jessica Lofthouse.
A History of England.	-	Keith Fieling.
History Today.	-	Bracken Publications.
A Guide to Turton Tower.	-	Reginald Dart.
Robespiere and the French Revolution.	-	J.M. Thompson.
Civil War in England.	-	Jack Lindsey.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT LEYLAND IN 1674 - G.L. Bolton.

In view of the present interest in the old Grammar School at Leyland, the following note may be of interest to members.

The letter transcribed below was written on 23rd February, 1673 (1674 by modern dating) by Mr. Hugh Bonkin, Schoolmaster at Leyland to a "Mr. Wm. Wilson, Register at Chester". Many similar letters were sent "in answer to ye request of Mr. Crofer (Christopher) Wase, Superior Bedell of the Civill Law in ye Universitie of Oxon, desiring to know ye present state of ye English ffree Schooles, to the intent that he may report the same. (Mr. Wase was Principal of St. Mary Hall, Oxford)

"Worthy Sir,

My best respects salute you wishing you health in the Lord, here is nothing save cordiall thanks for your unparalleld favours towards me; Now these lynes are to signifye unto you that I have with all possible care I could, sent you the best informacon could bee given or prowred from Mr. Rothwell our Vicar the antientest men of our parish; as first who was the founder of our Schools at Leyland in the County of Lancaster we conceive that Queen Elizabeth was the first founder thereof; and gave four pounds per annum to the same, the which was well truly payd ontill now of late, that the patente or grant being lost, and sought for in the records at London but as yet cannot be found, and soe the moneys are denyed to be payed, according as it formerly was.

The next ffounder was one Mr. Peter Burscough, he gave to our School the sum of 100 pounds in the year of our Lord 1627. Also William ffarington late of Weorden Esqr. deceased; gave the sum of 20 pounds about the year of our Lord 1658. James Sherdley of ffarington, gent, gave the sum of 50 pounds in the year 1670, Henry Asshurst Esq and Nathaniel Hilton Esq, both given 10 pounds per annum as a gratitie in the year 1768 - but they may recall it when they please beinge both yet liveinge at London. One Mr. Andrew Dandie late of London deceased gave the sum of one hundred pounds in the year of our Lord 1672.

Nowe, haveing given you the founders and endowments of the school, I shall alsoe give you the succession of masters, but only the surnames. Noe books save a Dixonary which is Gouldmans Workes; the which the churchwardens of the parish of Leyland bought for the use of the Schoole.

Fifthly I cannot secure any intelligence how many of the masters weare universittie men, save the two Wrights, which wer bacelors of Divinitie in the Universitie of Cambridge, Sherbourne at St. Marys Hall Oxon, and Walker.

Not any liberaries about us worth the writing of. Alsoe, hereunder you have the names of the Governors or visitors of the said school of Leyland. I shall not trouble you further at present; hoping these lynes shall find you in welth. I leave the rest.

Sir, your obliged friend to serve you whiles.

Hugh Bonkin.

From Leyland 23rd February 1673 " (=1674)

Note William Rothwell M.A. was Vicar 1650 - 1675.

These are the Governors or Visitors.

Richard Houghton Baronet
Charles Houghton Esq.,
Henry Houghton Esq.,
Henry Farington Esq.,
Edward Fleetwood Esq.,
Richard Brookes Esq.,
Richard Standish Esq.,
Edward Robinson Esq.,
John Robinson Esq.,
John Farnworth Esq.,

Richard Curden Doctor of Phisicke
William Eccleston Gent.
John Pincocke Gent.
Richard Sherdley Gent.
William Dandie Gent.
John Sherdley Gent.
Richard Wittiwell Gent.
Ralph Smith Gent.
Ralph Leyland Gent.
Thomas Smith Gent.
John Armetryding Gent.

Schoolmasters at Leyland Schoole since the year 1580.

Mr. Hodson.
Mr. Rushton.
Mr. Corbie.
Mr. Wright.
Mr. Bennet.
Mr. Siddell.
Mr. Banckes.
Mr. Walker.
Mr. Sherburne (Note: could this be John Sherburne B.D. Vicar from 1570 - 1595?)
Mr. Wright.
Mr. Knott.
Mr. Shaw.
Mr. Whittle.
Mr. Broadhurst.

Authors note.

I was interested in the reference to "Gouldmans Dixonary" and traced one Francis Gouldman, lexicographer who was probably the son of George Gouldman Archdeacon of Essex.

In 1634 he was Vicar at South Ockenden, Essex from which he was sequestered in 1644 but at the Restoration he regained the living. He died somewhere in Lancashire in 1688.

He compiled "A copious Dictionary in three parts"

(1) The English before the Latin.

(2) The Latin before the English.

(3) The Proper names of persons, places etc.

1st edition, Quarto, London 1664.

2nd edition, Quarto, Cambridge 1669.

3rd edition, the Hebrew roots and derivations added, Cambridge 1674 - 75.

4th edition 1678.

As Hugh Bonkin mentions the book at Leyland in 1673 (1674) it is, therefore, extremely likely that it was the 2nd edition. It seems also possible that it was brought to Leyland by Bonkin himself.

Mr. Hugh Bonkin was buried at Leyland on March 28th, 1681.

THE LEYLAND VILLAGE CROSS - Miss. M. Watkinson.

1. This Cross stands in an open space in the middle of the village, at the meeting of Church Road with Towngate, about one hundred yards to the west of the Ancient Parish Church dedicated to St. Andrew.

2. The flight of three steps and about five feet in height of the stem are ancient. The base moulding points to the perpendicular period as the date of erection.
In the Jubilee Year (1887) some hideous lamps, placed by the Local Board on the top of the Cross were removed, and the Cross itself was carefully restored.
The late Miss ffarington and the Rev. Thomas Ridbye Baldwin were the chief contributors to the cost of the improvements which were carried out from the design of Charles Deacon, Esq., Architect, of Liverpool.

3. The total height of the present erection from the road level is about fourteen feet.
The old well and pump were at the same time done away with and a fountain of good design placed in it's stead on the South side of the Cross.
The Rev. W.S. White sends me the following note about Leyland

Village or Market Cross.
"This stands very nearly in the centre of the Hundred of Leyland Hence it appears to me more than likely that it indicates a very ancient place of common concourse. Here the hundred mote the folk-mote, the military and civil assemblies of later times (most likely) were held. The Wapentake, the gathering of the Sheriff's bands, or the meeting of armed men, would naturally take place here.
The presence of an ancient well in immediate proximity to it is according to precedent. (There is now an ornamental fountain supplied by the waterworks company,) but there was before 1887 a very old pump on the site, hence I conjecture a spring or well.

The Cross was a broken shaft until 1887, when it was restored probably broken in Puritan times, there were some fierce iconoclasts in Leyland at the period (as I know).

Very probably also an old preaching station before the building of the first Leyland Church.

THE YOUNG MAN'S BEST COMPANION (PART 1) - F. Cumpsty.

Recently I had loaned to me a fascinating book published just over 200 years ago (MDCCLXX)

Within its 384 pages it covers a fantastic range of subjects as will be seen from the following which is a copy of the title page :-

THE INSTRUCTOR:

or

THE YOUNG MAN'S BEST COMPANION (PART 1)

containing

Spelling, Reading, Writing and Arithmetick, in an easier way than any yet published; and how to qualify any Person for Business without the Help of a Master.

Instructions to write Variety of Hands, with copies both in Prose and Verse. How to write Letters on Business or Friendship. Forms of Indentures, Bonds, Bills of Sale, Receipts, Wills, Leases, Releases, Etc.

Also Merchants Accounts, and a Short and easy Method of Shop and Book-keeping; with a Description of the Product Counties and Market Towns in England and Wales; with a List of Fairs according to the New Stile.

Together with the METHOD of measuring Carpenters, Joinery, Sawyers, Bricklayers, Plasterers, Plumbers, Masons, Glasiers, and Painters Work. How to undertake each Work and at what Price; the Rates of each Commodity and the common Wages of Journeymen; with the Description of Gunter's Line and Coggesall's Sliding-Rule.

Likewise the PRACTICAL GAUGER made Easy; the Art of Dialling and how to erect and fix Dials: with Instructions for Dying, Colouring and making Colours and forme General Observations for Gardening every Month in the Year.

To which is added,

THE FAMILY'S BEST COMPANION:

With Instructions for Marking on Lines, how to Pickle and Preserve; to make divers Sorts of Wine; and many excellent Plasters, and Medicines, necessary in all Families :

and

A COMPENDIUM OF THE SCIENCES OF GEOGRAPHY AND ASTRONOMY:

containing

A brief Description of the different Parts of the Earth and a Survey of the CELESTIAL BODIES.

Also some useful INTEREST - TABLES.

By GEORGE FISHER, Accomptant.

The twentieth Edition Corrected and Improved.

Browsing through the book one comes across most interesting items and I hope to deal with some of these in later acticles.

THE YOUNG MAN'S BEST COMPANION (PART 2)

DIRECTIONS TO BEGINNERS IN WRITING.

First 'tis necessary to be provided with the following Implements, viz, good Pens, good and free Ink, and also good Paper, when arrived to commendable Performances; likewise a flat Ruler for Surenefs; and a round one for Dispatch; with a leaden Plummet or Pencil to rule Lines: Also sum Sandrick Powder (or Pounce, as they call it), with a little Cotton dipped therein, which rubbed gently over the Paper to make it bear Ink the better; particularly when full Hands are to be written, such as Text, Etc. and especially when you are obliged to scratch out a Word or Letter: for then there will be a Necessity for its use; and rubbing the Place with the Pounce, smooth it with the Haft of the Penknife, or clean Paper, and then you may write what is proper in the same Place. These Implements are fumm'd up in these Lines :

A Penknife Razor-Metal, Quills good Store;
Gum Sandrick Powder to pounce Paper O'er;
Ink shining, black, Paper more white than Snow,
Round and flat Rulers on your felt below,
With willing Mind these and industrious Hand,
Will make this Art your Servant at Command.

TO HOLD THE PEN.

The Pen must be held somewhat sloping, with the thumb and the two fingers next to it; the ball of the middle-finger must be placed straight, just against the upper part of the cut or cradle, to keep the pen steady. The forefinger lying straight on the middle finger; and the thumb must be fixed a little higher than the end of the fore-finger, bending in the joint and the pen be so placed to be held easily, without griping. The elbow must be drawn towards the body, but not too close. You must support your hand by leaning on the table edge, resting on it halfway between your wrist and elbow, not sufferin the ball, or fleshy part of your hand, to touch the paper, but resting your hand on the end of your little finger, and your fourth finger bending inwards, and supported on the table as abovesaid.

HOW TO MAKE A PEN.

This is gained sooner by Experience and Observation from others that can make a Pen well, than by verbal directions. But note, that those Quills called Seconds are the best, as being hard, long and round in the Barrel; and before you begin to cut the Quill, scrape off the superflous Scurf with the Bark of your penknife; scrape most on the back of the quill, that the slit may be the finer, and without Gander's Teeth (as the roughness in the slit is by some called). After you have scraped the Quill as aforesaid, cut the Quill at the end, half through, on the back part; and then turning up the Belly, cut the other half or part quite through, viz, about a quarter or almost half an inch at the end of the Quill, which will then appear forked. Then enter the penknife a little in the back notch and then putting the peg of the penknife hast (or the end of another Quill) into the back notch, holding your thumb pretty hard on the back of the Quill (as high as you intend the slit to be) with a sudden or quick twitch, force up the slit; it must be sudden and smart, that the slit may be clearer. Then by several cuts on each side bring the Quill into equal shape or form on both sides; and having brought it to a fine point, place the inside of the nib on the nail of your thumb, and enter a knife at the extremity of the nib, and cut it through a little sloping. Then with a downright cut of the knife, cut off the nib; and then by other proper cuts finish the pen, bring-ing it into a handsome shape, and proper form. Buttle meddle not with the nib again, by giving it any trimming or fine cuts, for that causes a roughness and spoils it;. But if you do, to bring the nib the evener, the nib must be done again as above directed.

A RECEIPT FOR MAKING BLACK INK.

To six quarts of rain or river water, (but rain water is the best) put one pound and a half of fresh blue galls of Aleppa, (for those of Smyrna are not strong enough) bruised pretty small 8 ounces of Copperas, clean, rocky and green, also 8 ounces of clean, bright and clear Gum Arabic; and two ounces of Roche Allum. Let these stand together in a large stone bottle, or clean stone pot, or earthen pot, with a narrow mouth to keep it free from dust, flake, roll or stir it well, once every day, and you will have excellent ink in about a months time, and the older it grows, the better it will be for use.

Ingredients for a Quart.

1 quart of water, 4 ounces of galls, 2 ounces of Copperas and 2 ounces of Gum, mixed and stirred as above. If you soak the green peeling of walnuts (at the time of tye year when pretty ripe) and oak sawdust, or small chips of oak, in rain water, and stir it pretty often for a fortnight; the water strained off and used with the same ingredients as above, would render the ink still stronger and better.

OF SECRET WRITING.

Here it may not be improper to say something of Secret Writing; to which Bishop Wilkins, in his Book of Methamatical Magic, speaks largely; but it is principally concerning writing in sypher, which requires great pains and an uncommon share of ingenuity, both in writers and readers. But, however, I shall shew two or three particular ways, that are very pretty and amusing and also very easy both as to cost and pains.

First, if you dip your pen in the juice of a lemon, or of an onion, or in your own urine, or in spirits of vitriol, and write on clean paper whatever you intend, it shall not be discerned till you hold it on the fire and then it will appear legible. And if with any of the aforementioned you write on your skin, as on your arm and back of your hand, etc., it shall not be seen till you burn a piece of paper, and with the ashes rub on the place and then it will appear very plain, This I have experienced and try'd and therefore, can say,Probatum est.

Another way is, when you write a letter that you intend it shall not be discovered, but to those you think fit first to write your thoughts on one side of your letter with black ink as usual, (but it ought to be on thin paper) and then, on the contrary side, go over the said matter that you would have secret, with a clean pen dipped in Milk, and that writing, shall not be read without holding it to the fire, as mentioned above, and then it will appear legible in a bluish colour.

A third method is, to have two pieces of paper of equal size and the uppermost cut in checquered holes or squares big enough to contain any word of fix or seven syllables and in those squares write your mind in regular sense; and then take off the said checquered paper, and fill up the vacancies with words of any kind, which will

render it perfect nonsense, and not capable of being read, to any purpose of intelligence. And transmit and send the said uppermost or checquered paper, or another exactly of the same form to your correspond; whereby he shall, by laying it necely on your said letter, read your intended sense, without being perplexed with the works of amusement intermixed, which make it altegether unintelligible.

Or again, you may write to your friend in proper sense in common ink, and let the lines be at so commodious a distance that what you intend to be secret may be written between them with water, wherin galls have been steeped a little time, but not long enough to tincture the water, and when dry, nothing of the writing between the said lines can be seen, but when it is to be read you must with a fine hair pencil dipped in Copperas water go between the said lines, and so make it legible.

This way will give no ground for suspicion, because the letter seemeth to carry proper sense in those lines that are set at a proper distance.

SHRUGGS IN RETROSPECT - W. Rigby.

By the felling of the two hundred feet high chimney of Leyland Bleachworks, locally known as Shruggs, a familiar local landmark has disappeared. To notice, when one is out walking or riding, that it towers over the scene no longer, is a sad reminder of the impermanence of men's affairs, and that the processes of bleaching and dyeing will be carried on there no more.

The date of origin of Shruggs is uncertain, but it is known that its capacity was extended as the years went by.

In volume two of his "History and Direction of Lancashire", 1801, Baines mentioned two bleachers of Leyland - John Bainbridge and Ralph Brindle. Whether these two were connected with Shruggs in any way we do not know. We do know, however, that James Fletcher controlled the business in 1844 and that in 1871 John Stanning took over from him. Mr. Stanning came to Leyland from Bolton, as did his head dyer, Mr. Harold Hay.

Besides the local workers, there were migrants from Scotland and Ireland who worked at the Bleachworks in its early days. I can recall names which will be familier to old Leyland people, such as Kelly, Burns, Wier, Cuncannon, Downey, McGrath, Gallager, Brown, and McHugh, whose decendants are in and about Leyland to this day and the place where they worked was called Scotch side. The size of the works may be guessed by the number of its departments; many had dates over the door. The oldest dated building was at the entrance to the Scutchers, 1884, the next was the dyehouse alongside the chimney, 1886, the Beetle Place, 1890, the Blue Place and Clamp Room, 1900. The Engine House on the Scotch Side was dated 1902, and as this was Coronation Year of Edward Vll all the employees received a decorated plate of the King and Queen, the gift of Mr. & Mrs. John Stanning. The Mercerise Place, which replaced the old cobbled farm yard was dated 1913.

Shruggs was situated in a pleasant semi-rural spot. It had also historical associations. For instance, Fairs were held in Leyland on March 24th and 25th, 1851. The "Wake" was on the first Tuesday after St. Andrews Day. In times more recent workers at Shruggs were noted for their enthusiam and skill in trimming the lorries for the annual Walking Day and the unsurpassable May Festival.

One of the nicest walks to the bleachworks from the Cross was down Cow Lane. There were others too: Love Lane leading from the Infants School, Ship Fields, Forresters Lane, and Hall Fields leading from Golden Hill Lane, Polewell Fields off Leyland Lane and Mill Lane from Seven Stars. These lanes and paths were busy thoroughfares when cotton was in its hayday. Along these walks many changes have taken place so that any native returning after a long absence might be forgiven if at first he failed to recognise the familiar haunts of his boyhood days.

As you ramble round the outside of the Shruggs buildings you come to the Stonemasons yard, the filter beds, and beyond these are six large lodges, the largest being at Broadfield, the home of the late John Stanning, which in its day was a stately mansion with beautiful gardens, two big lakes with boathouses and swans and ducks to beautify the scene. Here you could linger a moment or two and visulise what it was like sixty years ago, with its well cut lawns and rose gardens, no traces of which are visable now.

So where once its proprietor lived and throve we will take our leave of Shruggs. In 1968 it closed down, alas, for ever. It is soon to be demolished. Perhaps some of us who worked there and regret its passing may be solaced by remembering that there is nothing permanant under the sun.

LANCASHIRE WORDS AND SAYINGS - Miss M. Watkinson.

As quare as Dick's hat band - As queer as Dick's hatband.

As dumb as a milestone.

As fit as a fiddle.

Cock o'Midden.

He stunk a mon's height.

A'm stopped for bobbins - Held up at weaving.

Wheer there's muck there's money.

Too greedy to be honest.

Tha'd be woss if owt ailed thee - You'd be worse if you were ill.

Too slow to catch cowd.

Cawr tha down - sit down, or stoop down.

Aw'l gie thee a clout - I'll hit thee.

Tha'll catch thee deeath of cowd.

He jowed his head on jomb stone.
I cornt goa, cose I'm beawt money.
He's that skinny, he'd cut a hapenny in two.

LANCASHIRE WORDS.

As lief	-	As soon.
Baulkin	-	Crying.
Brat	-	Apron.
Buttie	-	Bread and butter.
Billycock	-	Bowler hat.
Causer	-	Edge of footpath.
Clod	-	To throw.
Codding	-	Not true, pulling a leg.
Cokers	-	Clog irons.
Collop	-	Slice of bacon.
Cowd	-	Cold.
Crazy	-	Bad tempered.
Dishclout	-	Dishcloth.
Esshole	-	Recess for ashes under old firegrate.
Fain	-	Glad, pleased.
Gallouses	-	Braces.
Gansey	-	Jersey, derived from Guernsey.
Gauping	-	Staring.
Gawmless	-	Stupid.
Good Neet	-	Good Night.
Gradely	-	Genuine.
Gress	-	Grass.
Hufted	-	Annoyed.
Jowed	-	Bumped.
Key-pawed	-	Left handed.
Keck	-	Overturned.
Lungous	-	Clumsy.
Mangy	-	Bad tempered.
Mazy	-	Dizzy
Middlin	-	Fairly well in health.
Powed	-	Hair cut.
Pown	-	Harassed.

Ratch	-	Stretch.
Ruck	-	Heap.
Saucing	-	Scolding.
Sauve	-	Ointment.
Shive	-	Slice of bread.
Sithee-bod	-	Take notice.
Slutch	-	Thick mud.
Sneck	-	Door catch.
Swaddy	-	Soldier.
Two-bar	-	Top bar on old fireplace.
Trapesin	-	Walking wearily.
Treaping	-	Arguing.
Wick	-	Alive.
Welly	-	Nearly.
Witchett	-	Wet shod.

HOGHTON TOWER - F.J. Knight.

A great house set on a hill cannot be hid, and, by whichever road you approach, Hoghton Tower is visible for miles on its wooded eminence. This hill is the last, southwesterly, tip of the Pendle range, which, falling away from the most Lancashire of all hills, throws up this last escarpment on the plain, mid-way between Preston and Blackburn. Crowning the hill is the house, the approach to it beginning to rise immediately behind the gates on the road, onwards and upwards in a straight half mile - fabulously long and steep it seemed in childhood, and the visitors to whom it is new still find it so.

All history is in the end local history, and the story of the great house on the sky-line, with its castellated front, its crowding chimneys and gateways, has been part of the island story since the days of Elizabeth. The de Hoghton family was then already old. In search of their origins we would have to part the mists of time itself, when names were taken that described the essential features of the face of the earth on which men were learning to live. Hoghton is certainly a place on a hill. The earliest pre-historic settlers, around what is now Preston, lived a semi-aquatic existence as hunters and fishermen. After the Conquest come crowding the early English figures, manorial officers with names that evoke their costumes - the reeve or bailiff who collected the lord's leviots and quit-rents; the beadle who claimed the fines and amercements; the hayward, who had charge of the common, and various other functionaries, the heresmen, swine-herd, woodward and surveyor of hedges. Amongst them one begins to glimpse, far off, the earliest half-legendary de Hoghtons, entering

the long story with companions as strangely named as the manorial officers - Alfgar, Morcar, Algitha, Corendrida, or Sybilla, directly descended from Earl Leofric and Lady Godiva, part of whose lands are still in possession of Hoghtons. Sybilla, in 1309, married Sir Richard de Hoghton Kt. Then the tangled consonants begin to sort themselves out : de Hoghtons with more manageable names appear, crossir and re-crossing like stage-warriors, till the sun breaks through, the ground clears, and at the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign Thomas Hoghton succeeds his father Sir Richard, at the age of 41, and begins to replace the ancient manor house which had for so long sheltered his forebears with the present edifice, and to match so well the site with the style of architecture.

In Norman times the family had lived on the River Darwen below tl hill. Their holdings were consolidated in the fourteenth century when Sir Richard de Hoghton married Sybilla de Lea and the heads of the family lived at Lea Hall (now a farm called Lea Old Hall) and they remained there until, in possesion of a great estate of more than 40,000 acres, including various Lancashire manors, - they entered the more spacious age of Queen Elizabeth and, to match the dwelling with the age, Thomas Hoghton built the house whose story is our main concer

But history did not begin again at that or any other point. Dense forest land still surrounded the house on the hill, and the hunting that had provided living in more primitive times was increasingly enjoyed as sport. The vast park was so full of tall timber that we are told a man could scarcely find the sun at noon and under the boughs walked boars and bulls " of a white and spangled colour" with red deer in great plenty. The white bull at least survives in the family crest, riding the wind in the weather vane, or proclaiming on the flying standard that the master is at home.

Other survivors there are, however, who claim an older tenure than the de Hoghtons themselves - the birds, renewing their unbroken descent since before the dawn of history. They are kin to the sparrow that in the dark ages flew into the great hall where the king sat at meat with his liegemen round the fire and then out into the storm of snow and wind, moving the Venerable Bede to reflect on the transitoriness of human life. They are also by their presence to-day a reminder of how persistently life renews itself. In the wooded land and pastur surrounding the hill one hundred and thirteen species have been observed. Fifty-three are resident, thirty-two are summer visitors, twenty-three winter visitors and among many stragglers have been the snow bunting, the great grey shrike, the Isabelline wheatear, the marsh harrier, and the dotterel. Occasionally the birds have been caught up in the human adventure - destined like the pheasant to play an enduring role in the social history of the country, or to inspire a temporary favour like the hawk which no doubt enjoyed the protection of a carefully preserved "eyrie." Thus they "earn a part i' th' story." But beyond these, and a possible heronry, the life of the birds must have changed as little as the steep hill and the wooded course of the River Darwen by which they live. The magpie and the sparrow-hawk, kestrel and the tawny owl, still take their toll. In summer days bullfinch and goldcrest lace the dark green shade. The noisy jay and drumming woodpecker still disturb the quiet dells, haunts of the woodcock and tree-creeper now, as in what we call always.

THE CATHOLIC PERIOD.

Thomas Hoghton, then, built his new house, changing the outline on the hill crest more quickly than the countryside around, or than the spirit of the times in which he lived. They were new times, no longer dominated by the need for self-preservation, but he advanced cautiously. He had no truck with the new Italian taste of the day. He built the sort of house his forefathers would have built, a stone house with battlements, English in every window, mullion and moulding and unfortunately proceeded to behave in the now old-fashioned, English way. He impounded the cattle of the Widow Singleton. Singleton's widow (one peers closer to catch an authentic glimpse of her, Thomazine her name, formidable woman, terrible to cross!) found strong friends to aid her, amongst them distant relatives of Thomas Hoghton himself. When he rode out at the head of a little army of thirty men he was opposed by eighty gentlemen and husbandmen. In the night fighting his younger brother was killed.

This was all very out of date. A hundred years ealier, perhaps, in the reign of Edward the Fourth .... But already such an affray was a scandal. The days of private war were over and many Lancashire men were now clapped into gaol. It was a lamentable situation. In this way blood feuds of irrational ferocity used to arise and foreseeing this the Earl of Derby, King, as it were, in Lancashire, himself wrote a letter to Lord Burghley which we may still read. Some gentlemen, he says, retailing the whole sad situation, are in peril of suffering the ancient penalty of burning in the hand, and they are "so great in kindred and affinity, and so stored with friends" that trouble might be looked for as soon as the scorched hands could hold a weapon. Lord Derby's petition prevailed, and the Hoghtons accepted as part of their compensation the manor of Walton-le-Dale.

He stood four-square, this Elibabethan Thomas Hoghton, to all the winds that blew in his day. He had planted his house in daylight, on the hill-top. But he could not, in one day, drive back the dark forest of fears that threatened life on all hands: war, when the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland rose and were suppressed, with numerous executions, thousands of "materless men" falling to the hangman's rope: disease, as the plague trailed on; lawsuits arising out of builders who "maliciously depart suddenly without anie occasion reasonable." Homicide they had suffered. Now exile darkened the day. Thomas Hoghton was a Catholic. The old faith was out of fashion in Elizabeth's day and he had dangerous friends, an outstanding one Cardinal Allen who later encouraged the Armada. He was neighbour of his manor of Rossall - boyhood friend - and his dear companion in exile. In those days when the Jesuits travelled in secret from house to house, or hid in priest-holes behind the wainscot, Blessed Edmund Campion came, preached, and deposited his secret papers in the house for safe-keeping. But the practice of the religion dear to Thomas Hoghton was now forbidden. The Mass was abolished, the liturgy of King Edward re-established, and he could not settle uncomplaining in his new house. Not all the stone quarried from the hill could keep the enemies of peace at bay. "For blessed conscience sake" he went into exile, sailing for the Low Countries about 1669 and dying there eleven years later.

Whilst he was away his brother Richard looked after the estates. On one occasion he visited Thomas in Antwerp and the licence for the journey was signed by Elizabeth herself. Later the Queen tried to lure him back but in vain. Among those who remained in exile with him was his butler, Roger Anderson. After his master's death he is said to have earned a frugal livelihood as a handloom weaver in Hoghton Bottom working with two brothers in a large room at the basement of the ancient Hoghton manor-house, which stood partially dismantled at the foot of the hill. What tales of exile, what homely gossip of life at Hoghton must have been exchanged. He, too, it is said, wrote there the manuscript verses that hang in the Tower, "The Blessed Conscience."

"To lovely Lea I then me hied,
And Hoghton bade farewell;
It was more time for me to ride,
Than longer there to dwell.
I durst not trust my dearest friend
But secretly stole hence,
To take the fortune God would send
And keep my conscience."

Elizabeth's reign was a long and stormy day that closed in shadow for the house on the hill. But there was promise of a brighter morrow. The next Hoghton was already a page at the Queen's court and was brought up there as a Protestant. In his day and that of the new sovereign it seems always to have been high noon at Hoghton.

JAMES THE FIRST AT HOGHTON.

Certainly the weather must have had something to do with it. It was in the dog days, in the height of the summer of 1617, that the light of history beat most clearly on Hoghton Tower. Those were the days that were packed

" with banneret and pennon,
Trumpet and kettledrum,
And the outrageous cannon,
To bundle time away-"

for the King came! King James the First of England, Sixth of Scotland

Sir Richard - for the boy at court had grown, had served in Ireland, and been created, in May, 1611, a baronet of the first creati was now in middle life. His son Sir Gilbert's wife, descended from the Stuarts, and a kinswoman of the King, may have been the occasion of the royal favour. She was co-heir of Sir Roger Aston, Bart., Gentleman of the Bedchamber and Master of the great wardrobe of King James, and was granted augmentation to Sir Gilbert's Coat the Rose of England and the Thistle of Scotland. Sir Richard had but two months' notice of the impending visit - little enough time to prepare if he were to accept the honour, though time enough, if the prospect seemed too onerous, to emulate his neighbour, Shuttleworth, who suspecting that he was due for the same honour chose rather to burn down his house. In the years to come the visit took its toll of Sir Richard but, looking back, he could have said, "What has been, has been; I have had my hour."

It was an honour and Sir Richard was a loyal subject. He was honest Dick: a mellow, good-hearted fellow with a reputation for being able to put six bottles of Thenish wine under his silken doublet at one sitting; and he rose to the occasion. He journeyed some way to meet the monarch, who had come in his travelling carriage, a cumbersome affair drawn by two long-tailed ponies; and rode by his side from Preston. Ahead of them all the time was the bold wooden escarpment, the castellated front and the chimney stacks against the sky-line. At the foot of the hill they alighted; the King, with his favourite George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and the Earls of Pembroke, Richmond, Nottingham and Bridgewater; Lords Zouch, Knollys, Mordaunt, Grey, Stanhope, and Compton; the Bishop of Chester, many baronets and knights, and a crowd of Lancashire notables. Tradition has it that the sharp and steep ascent to the Tower was carpeted along its entire length with red velvet, especially woven in the Low Countries. Mounted and on foot, they ascended, Sir Richard riding with his King. As they approached, his son Sir Gilbert, already knighted by the King in 1606 at the early age of 15, emerged, to a flourish of trumpets, surrounded by hosts of the neighbouring gentry to greet them. Sumptuously attired Sir Gilbert rode through an avenue of javeline bearers, in cloak and hose spangled with embroidery, his vest of cloth of gold enriched with previous stones, his shirt band and ruffles worked in silver, and his Spanish gloves breathing out the choicest perfume.

A local legend has it that as his sapient majesty approached the tower, he beheld a heavy stone by the roadside bearing the words: "Torne me o're, and I'le tell thee plain." There was something about this that characteristically caught the curiosity of the King. After much heavy labour the stone was turned over and the oracle's read: "Hot porritch softens hard butter-cakes, so torne me o're again."

The royal comment is not preserved but there is a portentous futility about the anecdote that draws the first line in the royal portrait as it emerges from fact and legend during the visit. How characteristic was everything he did, or had done for him, during his stay. There was a rush-bearing and piping before him in the outer courtyard. Following a petition from Lancashire folk he lifted the restrictions on Sunday recreations, but when he published this royal command the next year in the Book of Sports he ordered it to be read in all parish churches, thus provoking a hostility which was only finally appeased when the book was burnt in public by the common hangman twenty-five years later. He knighted, it is said, the loin he had enjoyed: Sir Loin. Many received the royal touch for the King's Evil. He, who hated the sheen of steel, and loathed the naked blade, hunted the stag under the hot sun, and shot, imperfectly, with a hand-gun at a roe-buck. He visited Sir Richard's alum mines to see for himself what they were worth and inspected them "preciselie." Jamie, the canny Scot, the British Solomon, the wisest fool in Christendom, wry humorist, had shot, superstitious, egotistical, crazed with the witch-mania of Scotland ... What a divinity must have hedged a king to have made it worth while to entertain him as Dick Hoghton did, to such an extent as to have to spend, later, some years in the Fleet prison, for debt.

The imagination swallows all. Only one feature of the visit, authentic and preserved for us, does it almost fail to digest - the bill of fare. There were two courses of all manner of flesh and fowl. With mutton, beef, and veal, pig and venison, were chickens, ducks, capons, geese, plover, partridge, quail, pheasant, turkey and turkey chicks, herne and many more, boiled rabbit, fried rabbit, cold rabbit, pies of all kind, hot mince pie, custard and buttered peas, all coming pell-mell to table. Supper and breakfast followed implacably on the same gargantuan scale. A vanished age, indeed.

The royal master left on the Monday morning but the merriment did not immediately die down. Indeed some feeling of relief may have added to the flames. He had hardly gone before "a man was almost slain with fighting" and Sir Richard led the Asshetons and Sherbornes and Traffords down to his cellar, and drank kindly with everyone "in all manner of friendlie speake," until, as Nicolas Assheton has it in his diary, all in the ceallar were "as merry as Robin Hood and all his fellowes." Even on the Tuesday he records "all this morning we plaid the Bacchanalians" by which time there must have been some thick heads and Sir Richard, when he came up from the cellar, must have begun to count the cost.

THE ROYALIST PERIOD.

The succession of great Jacobean days was not leading on to an era of settled prosperity. The crisis of English history was gathering the forces of tragedy. The gilded youth who had ridden out to welcome the King was fifty-one when the Civil War broke out. It brought him nothing but grief and bitterness. A son and a brother were killed and though Sir Gilbert, of course, was up for the King, his son and heir, Richard Hoghton, fought in the ranks of the Parliamentary forces. Desultory fighting broke out in 1642. Sir Gilbert collected and trained men for the King and advanced up the Ribble Valley as far as Whalley where he seized a quantity of arms before occupying Blackburn. The Tower was fortunately never fortified or defended and so escaped destruction, but the Civil War made one material change in its appearance as we see it to-day. Between the outer and the inner courtyards rose a great central tower. From it the house probably took its name for it is always correctly referred to in the singular as Hoghton Tower. On top of the tower Sir Gilbert lit a beacon as a "signall to the countrey for the Papists and Malignants to arise in the Fylde and in Lealand Hundred ..." The beacon, as Mr. Miller says, "gives a wild and picturesque interest to this turbulent scene. One can imagine the boding crimson glare dancing and unfolding like some unearthly portent above the grey roofs and castellated turrets of the stronghold, lighting up the night sky and tingeing the over-arching clouds, whilst in the surrounding woodlands, made darker and gloomier by their contrasting shadows, the creatures of the wild, the savage boar and the timid fallow deer, crouch trembling in their coverts. Still further afield the Royalist forces, minor gentry and sturdy yeoman tenants, roused by the signal, would be hurriedly adjusting head-piece and breast-plate, buff coat and sword belt, tightening girths and stirrup leathers and examining the priming of pistol and snap-haunce."

Throughout the war Blackburn supported the Protestants. Preston was the Royalist headquarters. Sir Gilbert escaped the storming of Preston but Hoghton Tower itself fell, costing its captors dearly, to Captain Starkie. It was now that the central tower disappeared. Whether by accident - an early casualty to the careless smokers, or by design, powder and arms caught fire and it was blown up with great loss of life. The tower was completely demolished and never rebuilt. Soon afterwards Sir Gilbert died as the fighting swept to other parts of the country. Not until 1648 was Cromwell in the vicinity when he won the decisive victory of Preston.

Gilbert's son and heir, Sir Richard, supported the Parliament. With the restoration of Charles II in 1660 he tried to make terms with the newly crowned King but suffered a brief period of outlawry, reprieve from which came tardily the following year. But the de Hoghtons sought the sunny favour of the King and gradually won it. One sees them, holding positions as gentlemen of the bedchamber and other offices at court well into the 1670's.

PROTESTANT AND PARLIAMENTARY PERIOD.

Catholics and Protestants, royalists and parliamentarians, courtiers and country gentlemen, the de-Hoghtons played a part in so many of the changing scenes of English life that the name and the house are in time the most unchanging of the threads that hold the story together. Sir Richard married the Earl of Chesterfield's daughter and had six sons and five daughters. He supported the Presbyterian party and the ministers ejected under the Act of Uniformity.

Now for over a hundred years after 1662 Hoghton Tower which had sheltered Edmund Campion housed nonconformist congregations in the Banqueting Hall. Prominent dissenting ministers preached, and a succession of the ejected acted as chaplains or were received on terms of cordaility. Whilst the Church of England slept during the eighteenth century, enthusiasm, which it so much deplored, was kept alive at Hoghton. John Wesley himself eventually appeared there. Ladies of the family fostered much of the enthusiam. We read of one who "kept two days of prayer every month for a long time," another is "admonished," another is suddenly taken "very ill in chapel" only two days before her death.

Like Sir Richard, his son Sir Charles was a dissenter. He married the daughter of Viscount Massarene and had six sons and six daughters. Like his father he was a patron of the non-conformist divines.

Life was going forward again in a more manageable way. Sir Charles was able to build a new wing on to the house, the buildings and offices on the south side of the lower courtyard, duly commemorated with tablet and scriptural text, and busy himself with his library and scientific instruments - an enlightened gentleman of his day; looking forward from the first decade, across the eighteenth century which was to be spanned by his two successors. A contemporary manuscript describes him as "... a proper man, of person very civil, and juditious, given to noe vise, noe fault but his lipes are a lettell burnt by powder, a great shcoler and mathmaticon."

Men's minds were clearing now, brushing away the cobwebs of superstitio the witches and will o'the wisps of the last century. This was the day of the growth of scientific knowledge. In his will Sir Charles left his son and heir Henry ... "maps, perspective glasses, mathematical instruments, speaking trumpet, letters and seals, clocks and all boxes and chests of drawers in my little gallery, with presses and cupboards and what else his mother thinks convenient in his own appartment for him to have."

This son, Sir Henry, was returned to Parliament the year his father died, 1710, and was in three subsequent Parliaments. Five years after he succeeded to the title, the Jacobite risings swept south across Lancashire. As leader of the non-conformist party in the county Sir Henry was soon in action, mustering the militia, and marching to the defence of Lancaster. Before the rebels reached that town he entered into negotiations with a wealthy ship-owner Quaker, Mr. Carson, for possession of six pieces of cannon from a ship then lying off Sunderland Point. After much double-dealing the cannon fell into the hands of the rebels. Sir Henry was compelled to retreat, his coaches were captured and the wheels used to convey the cannon to Preston. There a watcher on top of the steeple of the parish church s Sir Henry's town house assaulted by two of the captured cannon. He would be too high up to see if they were brought on his own carriage wheels!

Between rebellions, Sir Henry was active in his parliamentary duties. He was returned again in 1728 and 1735. He continued the non-conformist works of his father and grandfather and in a schedule drawn up probably in the 1720's Hoghton Tower itself is listed as a Presbyterian Chapel with a congregation of 180.

When, in 1745, the news reached Lancashire that Charles Edward had landed, Sir Henry was well equipped to guide and counsel Lord Derby, the somewhat harassed Lord Lieutenant. "You are kind," he writes to Mr. Pelham, the Prime Minister, "in remembering the part I acted then. I am the same now, only thirty years older, and am ready still to venture my life and my fortune for my King and country." The air is full of rumours. The Pretender will march either to Edinburgh or through Lancashire. Six thousand Dutch have sailed from Holland and the English regiments have been sent for from Flanders. Meanwhile duties, foreshadowing those of the R.A.S.C., occupy a letter to Lord Derby ... "In the Northern countries they have swords but no bayonets. If your Lordship would have us to have both you will please to order. In Yorkshire they have a short sword in the scymator kind made at Sheffield... I suppose much cheaper than seven shillings ... Many of the foot are likely young fellows, but poor, bad clothes .. Would your Lordship think fit to order each man to have a coat without lining, only fac'd and turn'd up the sleeve. If the cloath is brown would be the cheapest, your Lordship's Regiment, I presume, turned up with blue, Lord Strange's white, and mine red, and why not the buttons same colour with the facing and if they have a coat they shoul have a hat with a worsted binding and splatteredashes. I believe it would all be bought for 30/- or less ..."

Alas for the splatterdashes! The unmanageable rebels suddenly seemed to be everywhere at once. In vain the militia marched and countermarched. They were eventually dispersed and their colonel's estate was at the mercy of the invaders. But peace came again. Sir Henry, who married three times, lived till 1768, dying without issue, at the age of ninety. He had had his life, as in his day. He had been caught up in great events and he had been much in the capital. Perhaps there he and the other members of Parliament the family threw up became dissatisfied with such shortcomings as the absence of a water supply at Hoghton Tower. The times anyhow were becoming more genteel. The family moved to Walton Hall, Walton-de-dale. They continued to serve as members of Parliament, soldiers, country squires. One of the most picturesque was Major General Daniel who was killed in action at Albuera in 1811. He was a great personal friend of the Duke of Wellington and among the interesting collection of de Hoghton papers at the Lancashire Record Office at Preston are many delightful letters from him to Wellington. When he was on the staff of the Marquis of Wellesley (Wellington's elder brother) then Governor-General in India, he rode with secret despatches from Culcutta to Hamburg, traversing a hostile Europe from one end to the other. Meanwhile the house on the hill was abandoned.

LATER DAYS.

It fell into a romantic decay. The most recent buildings, those south of the lower courtyard, were tenanted by a few families of weavers. In a directory of 1824 two cotton spinners and a calico printer are listed as conducting their business from Hoghton Tower. This was less than one hundred and fifty years since the faithful butler Roger Anderson returned alone from the exile he had gone into with Thomas Hoghton and lived on as a handloom weaver in the ancient Hoghton manor house at the foot of the hill. How obviously, how persistently, and from what remote origins was the industrial revolution thrusting upwards, whose achievements to-day are scrawled across the sky by the distant chimneys you can see from Hoghton.

Harrison Ainsworth, in 1848, described the tower as "...consigned to the occupation of a few game keepers...Bereft of its venerable timber, its court grass-grown, its fine oak staircase rotten, its domestic chapel neglected, its marble chamber broken and ruinous, its wainscotings and ceilings cracked and mouldering, Hoghton Tower presents only the wreck of its former grandeur."

A few years later a bearded figure, walking from Preston to Blackburn, for he liked to get as much fresh air and exercise as possible, looked up at the house and began to ascend the drive - perhaps the greatest imaginative English genius since the one who died the year before King James made the same ascent in 1617. Charles Dickens' imagination was fired by what he calls "...the ancient rooms, many of them with their floors and ceilings falling, the beams and rafters hanging dangerously down, the plaster dropping, the oak panels stripped away, the windows half walled up, half broken." He describes Hoghton thus in the story, "George Silverman's Explanation," a £1,000 tale written for American publication. "I feel," he wrote when composing it, "As if I had read something (by somebody else) which I shall never get out of my head" Dame Una Pope-Hennessy writes: "This

story has been examined in the light of Freudian psychology. The clergyman hero has been interpreted as being the victim of an abnormal rift between idealistic love and physical desire, he can only mate wit a woman he does not idealise. This want of harmonisation is put down to his upbringing. He has been reared in a slum, longed to be loved, always disapproved of, but always his childish ego has found itself adorable, important and beyond criticism. Viewed objectively, it is a tiresome story, though viewed subjectively it may be, as its elucidato supposes, a clue to Dicken's own psychology." The long process of sweeping away the cobwebs in men's minds has, one must believe, gone forward since his Britannic majesty muddied the waters with his witch hunts.

And then Sir Henry de Hoghton, who succeeded his father Sir Henry Bold Hoghton in 1862, began the work of restoration. The work was continued by his brother Sir Charles, and brought to a happy conclusion in 1901 by the late Sir James de Hoghton on the coming of age of Sir Cuthbert de Hoghton, the present baronet. These latter-day baronets were not parliamentarians or politicians. Yachting, sport, soldiering, claimed their time. In their tweeds, with their shooting stocks and moustaches they move towards us and our day in early number of "Conntry Life." Sir Henry Bold Hoghton and Lord Derby had the finest fighting cocks of their day. He was a member of the Royal Yach Squadron and his famous schooner "Gipsy Queen" of 160 tons was favourite in a race in 1851 round the Isle of Wight" open to yachts of all rigs and all nations" for a silver cup of 100 guineas. "Gipsy Queen" was unfortunately grounded on a sandbank off Ryde. The race was won by a Yankee clipper "America" and in vain have Sir Thomas Lipt and others striven since to win back "America's Cup." Sir James, who completed the restoration of the Tower, won the Gold Stanhope Medal in 1874 for "the bravest act of the year." Whilst yachting off Lowestoft he dived in and saved the life of a drowning man.

On Thursday, July 10th, 1913, Hoghton was visited by King George the Fifth and Queen Mary. Now in place of the retainers and the red velvet, tenants, school-children, and visitors lined each side of the long drive. But some traditions have great vitality. When the royal party inspected the Holcombe Harriers, King George was particularly interested in the hounds and heard from Colonel Hardcastle, Master of the Hunt, how King James had hunted with the Colcombe pack over the Turton Hills and so enjoyed the sport that he authorised the Master of the Hunt to wear scarlet and gold livery for ever and gave them power to hunt over fourteen townships. Nor did King George fail to record in his diary that he had dined at the same table as his Stuart ancestor nearly three hundred years before.

Sir Cuthbert, the present baronet has returned to the old faith for which the builder of the house, Thomas Hoghton, went into exile. The wheel has come full circle.

The house, asit now stands, still gives an excellent idea of the structure its founder had in mind - a manor house with two courtyards, the buildings around the first court housing the servants, the second consisting of the banqueting hall and residential quarters. The paucity of pictures is due to the burning down of Walton Hall in 1830. Forty years later a pantechnicon conveying the family treasures from

London to Hoghton caught fire. The accumulated pictures, family portraits and heirlooms of the centuries were destroyed. Jewels, including the pearls of Mary Queen of Scots, embroideries, tapestries, costumes and drawings were lost in this disaster. Still, in the great rooms, where Buckingham and the King slept, across the black and white floors and the canopied beds the sun will strike through the tall windows, lighting up the walls with the red glow from the damask furnishings. And from the garden, that stands as high as the battlements, you may look out over a countryside that ranges from the Lake District, across the agricultural plain of the Fylde to the Welsh Mountains with the Irish Sea sweeping the horizon. You may watch the sunsets there as Turner did when he painted them and it may be they are all the more superb to-day for the drift of Lancashire smoke across the scene.

But it is in the second courtyard, cut off from the high-way by the outer courtyard and by the gateways, and by the long dropping ribbon of the drive, that you find yourself in a well of silence that brims up, self-contained on the crest of the hill. In a moment the door at the top of the circular steps will open. But for the length of that moment you are alone among the enclosing walls. Nowhere else does the changing light draw such colours from the old stone. You could make the courtyard echo if you raised your voice. You will hear more if you listen to the silence.

So much English history has echoed through this quadrangle. How strange that so finely it should be William the Third who strides in the middle! He, who was king when all the traditions had been broken, the temporary caretaker for the English people, as Trevelyan says Tories and Whigs agreed to think of him. And what else is anybody, in our sometimes rough, sometimes more manageable, island story, but temporary caretaker for the English people? They all came from one eternity, and disappeared into another, those individuals whom this house drew to itself - Thomas Hoghton and his successors, Blessed Edmund Campion, the butler Roger Anderson, King James, the desirable brides of great houses, the ejected clergy and nonconformist ministers, John Wesley, enthusiastic and devout ladies, humble weavers and spinners, Charles Dickens, George the Fifth and his Queen ...

William the Third still strides among the memories of them. In his day no-one ever knew who would be on the throne in five years' time. Who, since him, has really ever known anything about five years ahead? The family who have persisted here so long would claim no more than to have been in their changing days "caretakers for the English people."

And men, since we are men,
Can weep the glory gone,
Of all who are dead
And their work undone-
Silent Kings and Cardinals,
Queens proud and dead
Fine baroque old gentlemen,
Divines, deeply read .....

COLLECTORS' CORNER. - Mrs. E.J. Berry.

The recent fuel crisis has, no doubt, turned our thoughts to forms of lighting which existed before the days of power stations. Those amongst us who own Victorian or earlier oil lamps will have been very thankful to put them into good use once again. I have a brass standard lamp with its telescopic stem supporting a bowl of opaque glass beautifully hand painted with pansies. This has been very useful during the power cuts but even with the power of light from its double wick I would not like to use it regularly.

I feel therefore that this would be a good time to write about lighting from the early days.

Going back to the very early sources of lighting, viz. candles and rushlights, these were made of wax and tallow in the Stuart period (1607-1714). The rushlights were less expensive measuring about a quarter-of-an-inch in diameter and though covered with tallow were too slender to stand unsupported. They were therefore held in a pair of iron nippers kept tightly closed by a spring or weight with spikes in the bottom fixed into a piece of oak or similar wood.

From about 1700, table rushlight holders were made with a plain tripod and flat feet.

Following this form of lighting we find oil lamps burning whale oil. The fumes given off in burning were very objectionable and the use of this form of lighting was usually confined to servants' quarters They were made first as a flat based, shallow iron container with a small handle and gave an open flame. A later development gave us an oval bowl pointed at one end to support the wick, than a further improvement was achieved by a tubular metal holder which was inserted in the contained and held and controlled the movement of the wick.

Of course candles needed holders. The types are many and varied and you could make a worthwhile and interesting collection of them. The earliest were of pewter or brass.

Probably the most interesting and the first known English candlestick was made in the 12th century and is inscribed "Given by Abbot Peter to the Church of St. Peter Gloucester". This is a beautiful piece of work in wonderfully good condition for its age. It must have been out of this country for many years because it was found in a Cathedral in France, later passing into private ownership and finally it came into the possession of the Victoria and Albert Museum where it is considered an important example of English Mediaeval Art. It is interesting to note that it is a "pricket" type which has a spike at the top on to which the candle was stuck.

In the latter part of the 17th century the "nozzle" type holder was in use, with a wide drip tray half way down the stem. A later development showed this drip tray reduced in size and fixed at the top of the stem. In some cases a device was fitted for ejecting the candle stump.

The chamber sticks came next with their "snuffers" and snuffer trays. For the richer people the various types of candelabra gave the combined lights of many candles. Perforated brass candle holders with glass interiors rather like our containers for holding a glass of hot liquid, were an interesting type. These had a snuffer attached to the side and altogether are considered an interesting collectors item. - Good lighting.

WHY DO WE SAY IT? - F.J. Knight.

I DON'T CARE A BRASS FARTHING ....

To express complete contempt for a matter.

The farthing was originally termed a "fourthling" - a fourth of one penny, and was minted in silver from the time of Edward I to Mary Tudor.

During the reign of James II national finances were so bad that the King was compelled to find ways of saving money. An obvious way to do this was to issue coins of the realm in a much cheaper and baser metal, hence the introduction of the brass farthing which disgusted people and was regarded as being of no value whatever.

BY HOOK OR BY CROOK ....

To secure something we desire by every means open to us.

Feudal landlords allowed very poor tenants to gather wood from their Lord's estates with certain limitations. One of these limitations was that they might gather wood for the winter, but that they might use only a hook and a crook in gathering this wood.

The crook was the shepherd's crook which they used for pulling down high branches. The hook was the equivalent of a bill-hook which they used for cutting out the lower branches.

THE REAL McCOY ....

Something genuine and right up to standard.

Kid McCoy was an early day American prizefighter of exceptional courage and great skill. After his passing from the boxing scene, there were many ambitious young men who adopted his fighting name. But none of them matched him in skill and courage, hence they were unfavourably compared with "the real McCoy.

TO LAUGH UP ONE'S SLEEVE ....

To be amused at another's foolishness and to barely conceal the fact.

In the sixteenth century sleeves were worn wide enough to receive and hide the entire head of a person, so that one wishing to hide, or indicate derision of another person, could make a gesture of putting

his head into his sleeve, sometimes in the pretence of looking for some object up his sleeve, while actually laughing up his sleeve.

TO CROSS THE RUBICON ....

To take some decision or step from which there is no possible way back at any time.

The Ribicon was a small river dividing the Province ruled by Julius Caesar from Gaul. When Julius Caesar finally decided to "cross the Rubicon" he became in that moment an invader of Italy, from which warlike act there could be no possible return and this precipitated Civil war.

A WASH OUT ...

Something finished with, of no lasting significance or value.

This is old Naval slang from the times when Navy signals were written down on a slate, and after they were acted upon, they would be ordered to "Wash that out" before a new message was given.

The new message would be received and written on the clean slate, before being washed out in turn.

THIS IS A FEATHER IN HIS CAP ....

This is some significant honour he has achieved.

This expression goes back through the years to when it was a tradition and custom among Asians and American Indians to add one feather to their head-dress for every enemy they personally slew in battle. Therefore a warrior's prowess could be judged at a glance by the number of feathers in his head-dress.

A minor and much gentler aspect of this practice may be the fact that it is the custom in some parts of this country for the sportsman who kills the first woodcock of the season to pluck a feather from the bird and put it in his cap.

HE GOT OUT OF BED THE WRONG SIDE THIS MORNING ....

When a person appears to begin the day badly, and continues in an attitude of clumsiness and moodiness.

It was an ancient and strong superstition in the middle ages that to set the LEFT foot out of bed first was most unlucky.

This also applied to the choice of shoe one put on first, always the right, never the left.

Such an eminent person as Augustus Caesar was most careful to respect this superstition.

I'M NOT GOING TO BANDY WORDS WITH HIM ....

No intention of wasting words with some person for whom you have little respect.

This comes from an Irish game called BANDY which was an early form of hockey.

The ball was BANDIED from side to side with much ferocity and without much seeming results, other than a lound noise from the clashing of sticks, the idea being to bang the ball (which was wooden) towards the opponents' goal.

PRIVATE CHARITIES IN LEYLAND - Part 1. - Mrs. E.M. Eagle.

The township of Leyland measures, 3,725½ acres and at the beginning of this century had population of 6,865 people. It is the centre of an extensive parish of 19,265½ acres with a corresponding population of 17,940. Although it is now one of the important industrial centres of the north, the town has not expanded with the industries, but is still a small, quiet place with thousands of workers cummuting daily from surrounding districts.

Before the start of this century there was very little industry apart from some home cotton weaving and the small town was surrounded by rural areas. Although Leyland is a very old town its history has been uneventful. It was mentioned in the Domesday Book Survey as rendering to Edward the Confessor a farm rent of £19. 18s. 2d (1) The men of Leyland manor had the privilege of being allowed to attend to their own harvest at autumn time, instead of to the King's harvest.

The ffarington family make their first appearance in Leyland in 1230 A.D. when one half of the manor and hundred of Leyland went to John-de-ffarington and the other to William Earl of Ferrers who was one of the early Earls of Derby. The connection with the Derbys continued for hundreds of years and at the Siege of Lathom House in the Civil War, William ffarington was chief adviser to Lady Derby.

It was this same William ffarington who built the first almshouses in Leyland. This endowment is interesting because it is mentioned by W.K. Jordan in his study of the social institutions of Lancashire as being one of the only six such foundations in the county between the years 1480-1660. It is almost impossible to account for this neglect in the establishment of almshouses, for only 2.04% of money for charities in Lancashire went to this purpose. Other counties in England gave amounts ranging from 7.55% in Hampshire to as much as 25.24% in Somerset, so that Lancashire fell far behind in this type of charitable work (2). We can only conclude that this neglect of almshouses may be due to the extreme backwardness of the county in the Middle Ages and the fact that only during this period did the county begin to make comparable progress with other parts of the country.

The ffarington benefaction was not extravagant but has proved very effective because of the continuing paternal interest shown by th Squires of ffarington for their work people. The will of William ffarington specified that each almsman should receive £1. annually, together with four loads of turf and a new gown every three years (3). Unfortunately it did not establish a legal trust so that until 1861 the almshouses were supported through the good will of the family. In that year the Misses ffarington arranged for the permanent endowmen of the almshouses. These two sisters, who remainded spinsters, took a great interest in the village of Leyland. Mary Hannah died in 1888 and her sister, Susan Mariah in 1894 at the age of 85 years. Old inhabitants of Leyland, now deceased, have spoken of the two sisters riding round the village in their carriage and pair with a postilion and footman.

Susan Maria interested herself in the history of her family and she edited the 'ffarington Papers' from the original manuscripts at Worden, which is now publihsed by the Cheetham Society.

Miss ffarington also wrote, in her own hand, in 1854, a record of the almshouses which gives much valuable information about their origin and history. The book contains a draft copy, dated 1690, layin out the details of the charity and where the money should come from fo its upkeep.

> "William ffarington, late of Worden, deceased, gradfather of H.F. (Henry ffarington) erected an almshouse in Leyland, consisting of six dwellings for six poor men or women with six little gardens. To provide clothing and fuel for them W.F. granted to John Fleetwood and William ffarington, father of H.F., 12th Sept. 1651, closes called the Parke Fields, Woodcock field, Summer field, closes called Balshaw's tenement, and closes called Leyland Moore, in Leyland, fourteen acres, in trust to pay yearly 20 shillings each to six poor men or women, after death of W.F., the grandfather, and also provide twenty-four cartloads of turfes. Also a gown value 20 shillings to each person every three years and to keep the Almshouses in repair. W.F. died Jan. 1659 and John Fleetwood died, payment was discontinued until W.F. was £207. in arrears so he charged the above closes with the £207. and the charity for ever, making the second party, as above, feoffes for the management of the charity and H.F. to assign the premises to them. Draft 1690." (4)

Miss ffarington also recounts various improvements which were made for the benefit of the inmates during her lifetime. Her father, another William ffarington took his responsibilities seriously and she tells how, prior to 1787, the almspeople had received £5. yearly from a legacy of the wife of the vicar of Leyland, herself a ffarington. This had lapsed, but, says Miss ffarington

> "my father in 1781 found those entitle somehow to the £5. and he consequently always paid it, and finding the W.F. badge on the gown-sleeve was very distasteful to the inmates he permitted it to be discontinued." (5)

This consideration for the dignity of the humble people is found in other aspects of the ffarington family's dealings with those beholden to them. In the family chapel in Leyland Church is an unusual brass plate which reads,

> "A tribute to the memory of Deborah Hebzell, Grace Dixon and James Ashworth, faithful, attached and deservedly valued domestics in the family of William and Hannah ffarington of Shawe Hall, for the respective period of 30, 25 and 45 years. Deborah Habzell died January 31st, 1849, aged 75 years. Grace Dixon died November 9th, 1855, aged 85 years. James Ashworth died December 7th, 1862, aged 83 years.
>
> 'I call ye not servants, but I have called you friends.'
>
> John 15:15."

The son of William ffarington, James Nowell ffarington

> "finding the long interval between the payments was very inconvenient to the inmates, substituted the payment of one shilling per week instead of the alms, wherby each occupant is the gainer of 15/4d. yearly."

James Nowell ffarington became heir in 1837, so prior to that the occupants of the almshouses must have received about £1.17.0d. per year. This cannot have been very adequate when figures for 1833 (see table) show that the plainest food for one person cost 1s3½d per week. (6)

When James Nowell ffarington died in 1848 without heir his two sisters and his wife took over the management of the estate, and these three good ladies did much creditable work in the parish.

The almshouses on the outskirts of Leyland were pulled down and rebuilt on a more convenient site in Fox Lane. Miss ffarington says,

> "The original building (see drawing at the end of this book) standing in Leyland Lane on the west side of the road between the Seven Stars Inn and Preston (near where the factory now is) was quite going to ruin. The clay floors were damp and below the level of the soil and the distance from church and shops was inconvenient. It was therefore pulled down in 1849 and the present building erected on a better site and of more than double the size of the old ones. The inmates attend church twice on Sunday and on Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Ascension Day when well. Indeed, they generally go on all feast days and occupy the seat nearest to the pulpit and desk in the ffarington chapel, many of them being deaf. They must actually reside in the houses, must keep them clean and neat and take their share in keeping the gardens tidy, and they are expected to live in peace and good will with each other. They are removable for

misconduct or if wholly unable to take care of themselves or find anyone to take care of them, in this case the work house is the remedy." (7)

The three ladies recognised the difficulty of managing on merely one shilling a week and they built three houses on land adjoining the almshouses in the year 1852 and assigned the rents of these for ever to the almspeople. In 1866 after the death of their sister-in-law the two sisters built another two houses and donated the rents of these properties also. Miss ffarington comments

"The present rent of each of these houses is £7.10.0d. and with the shilling a week payable from the Worden Park Estate and subsequent endowments is enough to allow the inmates 3 shillings a week each, and to maintain all the buildings in tenable repair, and furthermore to have a small sum in hand in case of any peculiar illness or necessity on the part of an inmate requiring more than the 3 shillings." (8)

Although at one time both sexes were accepted as inmates it grew custom for women from the Worden Estate to take the houses, a stipulation being that they be Church of England. The task of choosing suitable and deserving cases must have been a difficult problem.

"We find it does not answer to make the Almshouses too much of an infirmary. We have now (1872) two blind people and two deaf ones and to begin with people nearly blind or very deaf or great invalids is very inconvenient as they are a perpetual burden on the other inmates. We also find it necessary to ascertain what relations the old folks have, that they may be summoned in case of illness or death. Also, as three shillings a week is very little considering the high price of food it is desirable the inmates should have a trifle of their own to help out the allowance though of course it is not imperative." (9)

Miss ffarington made all decisions regarding the choice of inmates and inside the record book is a pathetic letter written from East Lancashire from a woman who had connections with the Worden Estate. In her sick and penniless state she turned to the family who had the reputation for helping those in need. In this case Miss ffarington wrote on the bottom of the letter

"No-one could promise a house to anyone except it was vacant at the time, but her name is now put on the list of applicants."

There is no date on this letter but as Miss Mary Hannah referred to as M.H. died in 1888 it must have been after that date and before 1894 when Susan Maria died. The fact that it was written is a testimonial to the continuing concern and feeling of responsibility shown by this local family for the people of Leyland.

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4. Lancashire Record Office, D.D.F/1861.

5. Ibid.

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THE OSBALDESTON ENDOWMENT.

Situated within a few yards of the ffarington almshouses is the property of the Osbaldeston charity, which is now probably the wealthiest endowment in Leyland.

In the year 1665 John Osbaldeston of Trand-on-the-Green in the parish of Chiswick, London, left £500. to be bestowed in lands for the benefit of the poor of Leyland.

> "Item, I do give unto the poor of the township of Leyland in the County of Lancaster the sum of five hundred pounds. I say to the poor of the township of Leyland only, and not to the poor of the whole parish, to be bestowed in lands for and towards the yearly relief and maintenance of the Poor of the said township for ever." (1)

This amount of £500. constituted a major portion of John Osbaldeston's wealth (see copy of will) but his reasons for leaving this substantial amount are difficult to discover. W.K. Jordan in discussing the impact of London upon Lancashire up to the year 1660, says,

> "there was a steady stream of Lancastrian boys leaving the county during the whole of our period to enter upon apprenticeships and to try their fortune in the capital." (2)

We may surmise that John Osbaldeston was one of these. He certainly had relations in the county for these are mentioned in his will,

"Item, I do give unto my kinsman, Peter Stonywright of the Parish Church of Aughton in the county of Lancaster the sum of £15, to be paid unto him within six months after the death of my good wife Sara Osbaldeston if she then be living ....."

"Lastly I do constitute and appoint Peter Stonywright, Bachelor, of the Parish Church of Aughton, James Smallshaw of Ormskirk both in the county of Lancaster ..... .to be the executors of this my last will and testament." (3)

The actual link with Leyland is even more tenuous. There are only seven documents relating to Leyland prior to 1653 and there is only one mention in these of the name Osbaldeston, one Elin, who was buried on the '13th off Aprill 1640'. We might hope that this was the mother of John Osbaldeston and assume that this reason prompted him to leave the generous endowment to his native town.

This type of benefaction was not uncommon. It is estimated that 28% of the total of the charities in Lancashire came from London.

"Almost the whole of the large total was in the form of capital and hence was to be permanently significant and useful. Most of the bequests and gifts were large, and they were, with very few exceptions, carefully and skilfully devised by men who knew what they wanted and how to translate their aspirations into solid and abiding institutions."

This observation is certainly true of the Osbaldeston benefaction which was bestowed in land. Due to the industrial growth in Leyland land values have risen considerably and part of the property has recently been sold to Leyland Motors for £30,000. The record of the Trustees of Lancashire Charities in enhancing endowments is very creditable and only London has a record as notable. Because of the backwardness in the county in municipal development it was usually found that clergy or local gentry were nominated as trustees or feoffees and this trend continued to the end of the 17th century.

John Osbaldeston was very definite in his instructions upon the appointment of feoffes.

"And the said sum of £500 to be paid within one year after the death of my said wife Sarah Osbaldestone, unto four of the most honest and able men in the said Township of Leyland, to be chosen and nominated by two of the Justices of the Peace that shall then next dwell to the said Township of Leyland, for feoffes, in Trust for the poor of the said Township. And when any of the four shall happen to die the two next Justices always to choose another in his room and stead, that still there may be four feoffes to take care of the poor of the said Township for ever." (5)

In 1691 lands and property to the value of £380. were purchased by the trustees. There is no record of what happened to the remaining £120. but it is known that six houses were either built or purchased by the trustees and it is suggested in the report of the Charity Commissioners (1826) that this would account for the residue.

During the course of the years several additional benefactions have been added to the original endowment. In the year 1718 the Rev. Thomas Armetriding

> "by his said will gave to the trustees of the six almshouses within Leyland, £100. the interest whereof he directed should be by them yearly distributed amongst such six poor people as should be placed in and inhabit therein, for their better support and maintenance."

Mrs. Margaret Armetriding, the widow, left a further £60. in her will in 1728 for the same purpose.

At the end of the century in 1792 John Beatson

> "gave to the trustees of the poor house at Leyland, called the Albiston (Osbaldeston) Poor-House, and their successors, £200. on trust, to invest the same in the public funds, and apply the dividends of the stoke on Good Friday, in each year, equally between such six poor women as should from time to time reside there and receive no allowance from the Parish of Leyland." (7)

Mary ffarington, who died in December 1811, by her will, gave to the trustees of the almshouses in Leyland, for the benefit of the poor of that charity £100. As she did not state specifically whether she intended the money for the ffarington or Osbaldeston almshouses it was considered that the gift should go to the latter because at this time the ffarington houses were situated in Leyland Lane, at a distance of about half a mile from the town. As it turned out the ffarington charity became more in need of this money than the Osbaldeston which was becoming a very wealthy endowment.

The final gift in augmentation of the Osbaldeston charity was a very substantial one. It was in two parts. First, by Deed of Gift dated 14th July, 1882, Agnes Ryley conveyed to the trustees of the Osbaldeston Charity a plot of land situated in Fox Lane just east of the almshouses, with an area of 475 square yards. Secondly, by her will dated 9th September 1886 she gave to the trustees of the same charity the sum of £2,000.

> "upon trust to lay out and expend not less than one moiety of the said sum of £2,000 in erecting an additional number of almshouses or residences for poor old people who were upwards of 60 years of age, and who belonged to and resided within the township of Leyland." (8)

The residue was to be invested and the interest paid out to the poor people resident in the almshouses.

A further proviso was that a stone tablet should be placed in some conspicuous part of the new almshouses recording that the building had been erected and endowed at the request of her late mother, Ann Walton, for the benefit of the poor of her native village. A further four almshouses were duly erected bringing the total up to ten houses.

Just a few years before this in 1870 the almshouses had been rebuilt on their present site in Fox Lane. As far back as 1849 the trustees had agreed on these four proposals.

1. Proposed and agreed that due to increased number of applicants for the charity the Trustees shall confirn their distribution to such families as reside within as well as have a legal settlement in Leyland.

2. That in the distribution of the charity particular regard shall be paid to the character and habits of the applicants so as to encourage the orderly and independent poor, and offer some check to idleness, extravagance and the too frequent application for parish relief.

3. That in consideration of the decayed state, as well as confined situation of the almshouses any sum not exceeding £20. be reserved from each year's rental until the amount be sufficient to rebuild the same on a more eligible site.

4. That the proceeds of any further sale of timber and all other casual resources be reserved and applied to the same purpose."

(9)

At the next half-yearly meeting in November 1849 the Trustees were still concerning themselves as to the effectiveness of the endowment. The condescension with which they discussed 'the poor' is unpleasant and pompus when considered in the light of modern ideas about social welfare, but no doubt the vicar, The Rev. Thomas Baldwin and his colleagues were enlightened men in their time and their forethought in planning for new houses does them much credit.

A good example of their determination to help only the 'deservin poor is shown in this extract from the minutes of the meeting of November 9th, 1849

"Resolved,
that the past mode of distributing the funds of the charity in small portions amongst a great number of applicants has failed in having any good effect and

rather tends to promote feelings of distrust and jealousy amongst the poor, and in some cases even of recklessness, having often led to much loss of time in canvassing the trustees.

That therefore all personal applicants be utterly discouraged, and in lieu of the present half yearly distribution amongst many, a limited number of the more respectable and aged poor (but not under 60 years of age) be selected by the Trustees as permanent recipients of the charity for life, or so long as they conduct themselves well and stand in need of the same, by weekly payments, regard being especially paid in priority of claim to those of pious, honest character who have lived and still live in Leyland and maintained their families ....

The resolution of the Trustees with regard to rebuilding the Almshouses being constantly kept in view.

That Miss ffarington's proposal for granting a site for the almshouses be thankfully accepted and recorded in the minutes and an answer be returned to her." (10)

This offer by Miss ffarington was never taken up for the minutes of April 15th, 1870 tell us that the new almshouses would

"be built upon a site in Fox Lane offered by the vicar at a moderate chief rent"

this site was considered

"more eligible than the old site being upon a good road with a south aspect and dry sub-soil also altogether more conveniently situated for the comfort of the poor, infirm and aged occupants." (11)

In June 1870, after much correspondence between the Trustees and the Charity Commissioners, the contract of Mr. William Alston, Builder of Preston was accepted to build six new almshouses at a cost of £496..12..0d. The architects were Messrs. Myres, Veevers and Myres and the total ultimate cost came to £572. Since their first decision to erect the new houses in 1849 the Trustees had accumulated £400. in the Post Office Savings Bank for this purpose and they were consequently £172 short, a debt which took several years to clear.

The six houses are in a continuous row, with projecting ends. They are built of red brick with a slate roof and each house consists of a sitting-room, bedroom and pantry. The four houses built out of Mrs. Ryley's endowment are also in a continuous row but

"are of a superior class, being larger, better built and of a better external effect. The rooms which consist of a sitting room, with stone floor, bedroom and scullery, are high and airy. The doors are protected by porches." (12)

At the end of the nineteenth century the inmates of the older houses received 4s. each week and those in the Ryley houses received 3s6d. each week. This amounted to £98. a pear. Eighteen penny loaves were distributed in the church every Sunday to poor people of the township in respect of the £52 left by Mrs. Armetriding for the purpose of providing bread for the poor. By 1898 the capital value of the property belonging to the Charity was estimated at £6,630. including a sum of £1,000 as the value of the almshouses. In just over 200 years the value of the endowment has been increased over 13 times. W.K. Jordan investigated the state of many Lancashire charities from the sixteenth sen'ury to the twentieth and discovered the average increase was 18 times the original amount. The figures for the Osbaldeston endowment concur with Jordan's findings on the permanence and usefulness of the London benefactions combined with the constant interest of shrewd and conscientious trustees.

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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

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